



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Facility Operator Certification

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION: GENERAL INFORMATION

General Requirement

The following facilities are required to be under the supervision of a certified operator in responsible charge ("ORC requirement"):

Public water systems – Community, Non-transient Non-community, Transient Non-community, and Purchased Water systems must be supervised in these areas:

1. Treatment (including well-and-chlorinator systems)
2. Distribution

Domestic wastewater systems – including non-discharging lagoon systems and collection systems not requiring a discharge permit must be supervised in these areas:

1. Treatment
2. Collection

Note: On-site wastewater treatment systems are excluded from the definition of domestic wastewater treatment facility in section 100.2 (13), Regulation 100

Industrial wastewater systems – if the facility operates with a general or individual permit under the CDPS system and does not discharge to a POTW, a certified operator is required.

ORC Reporting Requirement

Owners of all facilities subject to the ORC requirement must report the name, operator ID number, and contact information of the designated Operator in Responsible Charge to the Water Quality Control Division. This information must be kept current. Forms are available at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd, by calling 303-692-3510, or emailing requests to cdphe.FacilityOperator@state.co.us.

Types of Certification

Drinking Water

Treatment – levels A, B, C, and D (A is the highest level)
Distribution – levels 4, 3, 2, and 1 (4 is the highest level)
Combined treatment D and distribution 1 – Class S (if serving less than 3,300 people)
Combined treatment D and distribution 1 – Class T (if serving less than 100, groundwater source, transient non-community public water system, and the only treatment is non-gaseous chlorine disinfection)

Domestic Wastewater

Treatment – levels A, B, C, and D (A is the highest level)
Collection – levels 4, 3, 2, and 1 (4 is the highest level)
Combined treatment D and collection 1 – Class S (if serving less than 3,300 people)

Industrial Wastewater

Treatment – levels A, B, C, and D

Certification Examinations

There are three Certification Examination cycles each year. Application deadlines are March 1, July 1, and November 1

Exam Applications, Materials, and Fees

Application forms are available at www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/OpAssist/OpAssist.html or at <http://www.ocpoweb.com>. Exam schedules and applications are generally available 6 to 8 weeks prior to each application deadline date.

Pre-examination Training

Pre-examination training, by private providers, is scheduled prior to most examinations. Registration for an examination does not include registration for training; registration for training does not include registration for examinations. Pre-exam training, while recommended, is not required.

Experience and Continuing Education Requirements

	Experience (Hands-On Operational Experience)	Continuing Education for Renewal (every 3 years)
Treatment:		
Class A	4 years	3.0 TUs*
Class B	3 years	2.4 TUs
Class C	2 years	1.8 TUs
Class D	1 month**	1.2 TUs
Class S	1 month**	1.8 TUs
Class T	none	1.2 TUs
Distribution/Collection:		
Class 4	4 years	3.0 TUs
Class 3	3 years	2.4 TUs
Class 2	2 years	1.8 TUs
Class 1	1 month**	1.2 TUs

**Training Unit (TU): One (1) training unit is given for each ten (10) hours of class*

*** A specifically approved course may substitute for the 1-month experience requirement*

For Further Information about Certification, Applications, etc.

Operator Certification Program Office (OCPO)
2170 South Parker Road #290
Denver, Colorado 80231-5711

Phone: 303-394-8994
Fax: 303-394-3450
Web: www.ocpoweb.com